

Forwarded from an MOPH member, Larry Staats, who served with the Marines in Vietnam . . .

You have heard of Agent Orange, but did you know that whether you were a life guard on China Beach or you were up to your neck in bullets and bayonets in the steaming jungle, you can get an excellent comprehensive Physical examination including blood tests and x-rays, for FREE, through the VA?

It is called an Agent Orange Screening but it covers the whole nine yards.

Why should I? Even if you have health insurance, a second opinion exam is a good idea and this exam will cover you and maybe your kids for certain diseases in the future.

How? The lawmakers have declared that if you were anywhere in Vietnam there is a chance you were exposed. Dioxin took to the wind and settled as deep as 6 inches in the soil or on a desk at 3rd MarDiv HQ. But I'm fine! Are you?

Hopefully you are fine. They said I was fine, but I was put on the "Agent Orange Registry". I was told if I come down with Prostate Cancer or diabetes the government will assume it was due to agent orange, whether it was or not.

There is a whole list of problems that can turn up in you and your children. If they do, you and your offspring are covered, and you may also be compensated if it is chronic, and you aren't drawing 100% DAV benefits now. A former co-worker was 10% for wounds 'til I sent him in for this test. Now he is retired and collecting 100% DV for a minor wound and Agent Orange. His percentage if added would be 110%.

Who do I call? Call your VA regional and tell them you served in Vietnam and want an "Agent Orange Screening physical examination." With **DD-214** in hand stating you did Vietnam they can't refuse you. If they try call your local DAV, VFW, American legion, other service organization (Their services are Free) and ask to speak to a "Service Officer." If that person is lame call the nearest VA Medical Center. If you still have not connected, then call the "Hospital Patient Advocate", and as a last resort write a congressman or woman.

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY TROUBLE IF YOU REQUEST IT CORRECTLY BUT IT IS YOURS TO HAVE SO DON'T LET THEM BLOW YOU OFF. I had a "Vet Center" set it up for me. That is a "Vet Center" not the VA proper. They may help you **also**.